

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

/056 W

----- 121545

R 111132Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7638

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, RH

SUBJECT: TANZANIA DEMANDS RELEASE OF SITHOLE

1. JUNIOR FONMIN SEPETU, OPENING A "LIBERATION WEEK" AT KIVUKONI COLLEGE (IDEOLOGICAL TRAINING CENTER FOR TANU PARTY), DEMANDED MARCH 10 THAT SMITH REGIME IN RHODESIA RELEASE SITHOLE FORTHWITH, AND ENSURE THAT OTHER ANC LEADERS ARE PERMITTED TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HE SAID ARREST SHOWED THAT SMITH WAS AFTER OTHER ANC LEADERS; IT WOULD CONFUSE THEM AND MAKE ANC UNITY DISINTEGRATE. SEPETU WENT ON TO DENOUNCE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER VORSTER FOR HYPOCRISY IN TRYING TO BEFRIEND SOME AFRICAN STATES; VORSTER TRYING TO BUY TIME, BUT ONCE ZIMBABWE AND NAMIBIA

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FREE STRUGGLE AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID AND

BANTUSTAN POLICIES WOULD INTENSIFY.

2. THOUGH TANZANIAN PRESS DENOUNCED IMMEDIATELY THE ARREST OF SITHOLE, THIS IS FIRST OFFICIAL TANGOV REACTION WE HAVE SEEN. OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, ISSUED PREDICTABLE DENUNCIATION OF WHAT IT CALLED "THIS BRUTISH ACT ON THE PART OF IAN SMITH," AND SAID HE WOULD BE FULLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES.

3. COMMENT: ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, TANGOV REACTION TO SITHOLE ARREST SEEMS RATHER LATE AND RESTRAINED, WHETHER BECAUSE TANGOV THINKS THERE MAY BE SOME BASIS FOR SMITH'S CHARGES AGAINST SITHOLE, OR WHETHER BECAUSE IT STILL HOPEFUL FOR PRODUCTIVE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SMITH REGIME AND ANC. EQUALLY UNCLEAR IS WHY SMITH CHOSE TO MAKE THE ARREST. ON THE FACE OF IT HE WOULD SEEM TO BE DELIBERATELY SCUTTLE TALKS, SINCE HE SHOULD REALIZE THAT AFRICAN PUBLIC OPINION UNLIKELY BELIEVE ANY CASE HE CAN MAKE AGAINST SITHOLE; NEVERTHELESS, AS ONE LOCAL BRITISH DIPLOMAT SPECULATED, THE VIEW FROM SALISBURY CAN OFTEN BE STRANGELY OUT OF LINE WITH THE REAL WORLD.
CARTER

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